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Torrance, California
January 13, 1959

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a regular meeting at 8:00 P. M. Tuesday, January 13, 1959, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were:
COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Blount, Bradford, Drale, Jahn, Isen.
ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None. City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Remelmeyer were also present.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. Jim Becker led the salute to our Flag.

The Reverend Monrad Berguson, of the Hope Evangelical United Brethren Church, opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Jahn pointed out that Item 5, Page 7, of the Minutes of the meeting of January 6, 1959, referred to Dr. Webber as owner of the Medical Center discussed; he did not believe Dr. Webber was the owner of that particular property, and requested that Dr. Webber's name be stricken from those Minutes.

There were no objections and it was so ordered.

Councilman Beasley moved to approve the Minutes as corrected.

Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn, no objections, so ordered.

Mayor Isen at this time introduced two classes in American Government who were visiting the meeting, one from North High, taught by Mr. Steve Saporida, and one from Torrance High taught by Mr. Chester Ray. Both of these gentlemen stood with their respective classes and were introduced to the audience.

Mayor Isen then introduced Mr. Brannum, a bus driver for our schools who, for two years in a row, had won the State Championship as a school bus driver.

Mayor Isen announced that there were copies of the Agenda for those who wished to have them, and outlined the Council's procedure.

BIDS:

Mayor Isen announced that Bids for the Improvement of Carson Street were opened at 5:15 P. M. Tuesday, January 13, 1959, in this Chamber. He asked the City Manager if the results were available.

City Manager Stevens reported that Norwalk Asphaltic Concrete, Inc., was the low bidder, with a bid of \$68,739.05, with a bid of \$5.70 per ton for plant mix surfacing. He went on to say that our yearly contract bid for asphaltic surfacing is \$5.79. The City Manager recommended that the bid of Norwalk Asphaltic Concrete, Inc., be accepted as the lowest responsible bid and other bids be rejected.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager and accept the bid of Norwalk Asphaltic Concrete, Inc. as the lowest responsible bid and that all other bids be rejected.

Motion seconded by Councilman Beasley.

In reply to a question, the City Manager said the Engineering estimate on this was \$75,594, and the highest bid was \$80,814.

Motion to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager was carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Jahn moved that after the Clerk has given a number and

read the title to any Ordinance or Resolution on tonight's Agenda, the further reading thereof be waived; reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilman the right to demand the reading of any such Ordinance or Resolution in regular order.

Motion seconded by Councilman Beasley, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3619

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR
AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN CONTRACT
BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND NORWALK
ASPHALTIC CONCRETE INC.

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3619.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY CLERK:

1. With a letter dated January 8, 1959, the City Clerk submitted to the Council, as directed, an excerpt from the Council Minutes of June 17, 1958. This read as follows:

"Mayor Isen moved that the Ordinance setting up the Planning Commission be amended to reduce it from nine members to seven, because Mayor Isen said he believes that Commission is cumbersome and too large.

"Motion seconded by Councilman Beasley, who asked that the motion be amended to include that the President of that Commission be elected by the membership of the Commission as are the Chairmen of other Commissions.

"Mayor Isen accepted that amendment to his motion.

"Councilman Blount asked when this motion would take effect, and Mayor Isen replied when the Ordinance as amended is effective.

"Councilman Blount asked who it would be that was removed, pointing out that the Commission was now operating with only eight members, as Mr. Beasley had not been replaced.

"Councilman Beasley said it could be one of the members who had only a short time to serve.

"Councilman Bradford did not see why anyone should be removed until their term expires.

"Councilman Drale moved to table this motion until January 15, 1959.

"Motion, seconded by Councilman Bradford, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Bradford, Drale, Jahn. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Beasley, Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None."

Councilman Jahn moved this be removed from the table for the purpose of discussion.

Motion seconded by Councilman Beasley, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Isen pointed out that the original motion was now before the Council.

Councilman Jahn asked the City Attorney if anyone would be removed from the Commission at this time, and the City Attorney replied that he thought not. He said that the terms of three members have expired. If the Ordinance is amended as suggested here, it would simply mean that only two of them would be re-appointed. Until such time as the Ordinance is effective, the members of the Commission would continue to serve.

Councilman Jahn moved the question, and the motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Bradford, Jahn, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Beasley moved that the City Attorney be directed to draft the necessary Ordinance incorporating the motion and send it here for consideration.

Councilman Jahn asked if any other changes are to be made.

Mayor Isen seconded the motion.

The City Attorney said the Planning Commission ordinance is an old Ordinance which is out of line with our other Commission ordinances. He has been making an effort to get them uniform, and he asked permission to change the wording to bring this ordinance in line with the others, except for the \$10 per meeting which they now receive, with a maximum payment of \$20 a month.

Councilman Beasley recalled that had been under consideration at several meetings, with some question as to whether this payment should be continued.

Mayor Isen felt the issues under consideration should be restricted.

Councilman Jahn disagreed, saying that he felt any revisions necessary should be made at the time the City Attorney is re-drafting the ordinance. He believed the Council should discuss any provisions which they wish to change, so this can come in to the Council as they would like to have it. He asked if the issues were restricted as considered now.

Mayor Isen said they were restricted in the original motion.

Councilman Jahn asked that other changes be included; he felt paying a Commission a set amount of money is tantamount to paying a salary. He said he would rather see them paid the expenses they incur as other Commissions are, and be treated the same.

Councilman Beasley said he would be glad to incorporate that in his motion, and the amendment was accepted by the second.

Councilman Beasley said the expense accounts have to be approved by the Department Head and Finance Officer.

The City Attorney pointed out that Commissioners are not members of the various Departments.

Councilman Jahn said all expense accounts come before the Finance Committee of the Council for approval; if that Committee sees anything they do not approve, they do not recommend it for payment. He felt if the Commissioners attend meetings the expense should be paid, as long as the figures are within reason.

Councilman Benstead suggested that this be restricted to their attending meetings in Los Angeles and adjacent counties.

Councilman Jahn thought it just be eliminated, so this Commission would be the same as other Commissions.

The City Attorney pointed out that the Commission ordinance does not say anything about payment of expenses. That is a Council policy. If this is the same as other Commission ordinances, it would make no reference to expenses.

Councilman Jahn said it has been the policy of the Council that only one member of a Department should attend conferences, conventions, etc.

City Attorney Remelmeyer pointed out that the Commissions are not part of the Departments.

Councilman Beasley said the Planning Commissioners do go out of the immediate area, and to the entire area covered by the Southern California Planning Congress. He felt it might be possible to keep this completely out of the ordinance and put it in a separate Resolution.

Councilman Jahn said his thought was simply to delete the \$20 payment from the ordinance.

Councilman Beasley accepted that in his motion, and the Mayor accepted it in his second.

Councilman Drale asked if there would be any changes in the manner of appointment.

Mayor Isen said there would not.

The City Attorney said the method of appointment would be the same as other Commissions, i.e., the nomination made by the Mayor and with approval of the City Council.

Motion, as amended, carried by the following roll call vote:
 AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Bradford, Jahn, Isen. NOES:
 COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

1. With a letter dated January 2, 1959, the State Dept. of Public Works, Division of Highways, submitted to the City a memorandum of agreement for expenditure of gas tax allocation for the 1958-59 fiscal year.

The City Manager said each year, in order for the State to pay us funds, they allocate them and to get payment we have to pass this.

This was discussed very briefly, and City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3612

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
 ADOPTING BUDGET AND APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
 FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS ALLOCATED UNDER SECTION 2107.5
 OF THE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE.

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3612.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. A December 31, 1958, letter from E. W. Ballard, of the Broadway -Hale Stores, asked help from the City in having the power poles removed along Hawthorne and Sepulveda Blvds. near the new shopping center.

Mayor Isen thought this a private matter which must be negotiated between the two firms.

The City Manager thought that he and the City Attorney might help in the negotiations if this were referred to them.

Councilman Drale so moved.

Motion seconded by Councilman Beasley, no objections, so ordered.

3. A December 19, 1958, letter from V. C. Johson, President of the Mayflower Trailer Co., 2700 W. 247th St., submitted a copy of a letter they have sent to the Airport Manager asking to build on the 200' easement which they lease at the back of their property on the north side of the Airport.

A memo from the City Manager was appended, and reported that the request had gone to the Airport Commission and was referred by them to their Lease Committee for negotiation of lease payment.

Councilman Blount asked if the time limitation was effective in this matter.

The City Manager said this would come here.

Councilman Jahn asked to have this matter plainly flagged so it would be back here soon.

Councilman Drale agreed this should be done.

Mayor Isen ordered this held until it comes back to the Council from the Airport Commission or is referred here otherwise.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

1. With a letter dated January 8, 1959, the City Manager submitted the following matters for the Council's consideration and approval:

PERSONNEL:

- a. That Harry B. Van Bellehem be authorized to attend the California-Pacific Southwest Recreation Conference in Santa Monica February 14 thru 18, 1959, with appropriate expenses paid.

Councilman Jahn moved to approve this recommendation.
Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- b. In order to attract the finest possible candidate for our Public Works Director, I recommend that the salary be set at \$1195-\$1253-\$1313, or that a flat salary of \$1195 per month be established and the final range established when our complete salary survey is made in the Spring of 1959.

Councilman Jahn noted that this said 'or', and asked which the City Manager would recommend.

City Manager Stevens thought the \$1195 flat rate until the survey is made would be preferable.

Councilman Jahn moved to concur with the City Manager's recommendation that a flat salary of \$1195 per month be established and the final range established when our complete salary survey is made in the spring.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROPRIATIONS:

- a. For League of California Cities dues for the calendar year 1959, the sum of \$1750. This is a budget item.
- b. For the paving of the bottom of the channel of the Entradero Drain approximately 350 tons of asphaltic concrete at \$5.28 per ton from unappropriated reserve.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with Items a and b under APPROPRIATIONS.

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen.

Councilman Jahn asked the City Manager if he thought it was worth this much to pave the bottom of the channel mentioned, and the City Manager said he did; he thinks this must be done.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. A letter from the City Manager, dated December 18, 1958, read as follows:

"PACIFIC ELECTRIC RIGHT OF WAY

"Some time ago we contacted Pacific Electric Railway Company concerning the possibility of the City leasing portions of their right of way on Torrance Boulevard for beautification purposes. The company has submitted a lease, which is similar to those used in other cities where the right of way has been beautified. The following is a brief outline of the lease:

- "(a) A yearly lease at a rental of \$50 per year;
- "(b) May be terminated by either party on 30 days' notice;
- "(c) City may plant lawns within 4½' of center line of rail and shrubs up to 3' high within 8½' of center line of rail;
- "(d) The company reserves the right to lease portions of the area covered to sign-board companies for erection and maintenance of sign-boards.

"A copy of the lease and map pertaining hereto will be available at the Council meeting."

This letter had been considered by the Council, and referred to the City Manager to see if the charge for lease could not be cut and if the provision 'd' could not be deleted.

A January 8, 1959, memo from the City Manager was appended to the letter, and read as follows:

"I have discussed with the officials of the Pacific Electric items (a) and (d) of the above communication. They state that their yearly rental fee is based on the actual taxes (city only) on the property involved. This is the method they use in establishing lease values. The company will remove paragraph (d) above regarding installation of signs."

The City Manager told the Council that as regards this beautification, he believed if we painted the big bridge there we would have to do it perpetually.

The Mayor suggested that vines could be planted to cover the bridge, and Councilman Benstead suggested that ivy be planted there.

Councilman Benstead did not think we should pay them for the lease to beautify their property, and that he had raised that question when this was here before.

Mayor Isen moved to concur with this, since Item (d) has been deleted.

Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn.

Councilman Drale said he was not opposed to this, but he did feel we should not pay them for this. He asked how we would beautify it.

The City Manager said we would try to beautify this in the best way for the City.

Councilman Bradford asked if the \$50 would pay the taxes on the property, and the City Manager said that was the way they had figured it.

Councilman Bradford said he could not approve that \$50 payment. He felt that we regulate other businesses and even homeowners, and he could not see why we cannot prevail on them to beautify their own property.

Councilman Benstead asked if anyone had tried to get them to clean up and beautify the property, and the Mayor said many times.

Councilman Drale felt if we did this, we would also have to do the same thing for the Santa Fe. He would like very much to have that \$50 payment eliminated.

Councilman Jahn pointed out that these people are under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission, and we cannot regulate them at all. He said something like this comes up every year, and they have never done anything. Now they have promised us to cooperate. If it will cost us \$50 a year to make this area look better, he favored paying it.

Councilman Drale differed, saying the labor and planting, etc., would go on forever.

Councilman Jahn agreed, but felt this would be worth it.

Councilman Drale did not think this was a City responsibility, and he mentioned once more the possibility of our having to beautify the Santa Fe right of way if we do this.

Councilman Beasley asked if the Council had not at one time regulated the speed of trains running through the City, and was told they had not.

Mayor Isen pointed out the cooperation we have had from the Santa Fe, citing the intersection of Torrance Blvd. and Madrona as an example.

Mayor Isen said this would beautify Torrance Blvd., one of the main entrances to our City. This is the principal entrance to the business section, and he did not wish to lose this chance to make it attractive.

Councilman Drale felt the \$50 was just a beginning; he felt we would be spending taxpayers' money to improve private property. He outlined various costs which would have to be paid.

Councilman Blount concurred in principle with Councilman Drale, he said. He felt that with the 30 day cancellation clause, they might let us invest money there and then evict us.

Councilman Beasley questioned the legality of spending public money on private property, and the Mayor explained we would lease the land and it would then be public property.

Councilman Bradford asked who would be responsible if a child were hurt on those tracks if that was public property, and the City Attorney explained that the lease would be drawn so it would not include the tracks.

Councilman Bradford thought this would be a real liability, and could not see paying money to the P. E. for this.

Councilman Beasley asked to amend the motion to specify that 'a token lease payment of \$1 per year be paid instead of \$50.'

Councilman Blount asked if we could not get more than a 30-day cancellation clause.

Councilman Beasley asked to amend the motion to specify that the lease be on a yearly basis.

Councilman Benstead thought that the lease should specify that if they evict us within 5 years they repay us whatever funds we have invested there.

Councilman Drale asked if the property from curb to curb there belongs to the City, and the City Engineer replied that he thought the line was just outside the curb.

Councilman Bradford asked if he was absolutely positive, and the City Engineer replied he would have to check it.

Mayor Isen withdrew the motion, and Councilman Jahn withdrew his second.

Mayor Isen moved to table this until a Committee of the Council has met with representatives of the railway to discuss this.

There were no objections, and it was so ordered, with the Mayor appointing the following Committee: Mayor Isen, Councilman Bradford, and City Manager Stevens.

3. Fire Insurance Coverage Renewal for the 1959 calendar year was outlined by the City Manager in a letter dated January 9, 1959. The City Manager reported that:

"This is to advise that the City's fire insurance coverage is being continued in effect for the 1959 calendar year in accordance with existing policy established in 1955. Under the provisions of this program, one-fifth of the total fire insurance expires and is subject to renewal annually on December 31.

"Total coverage required for 1959 is in the amount of \$1994.

"This represents an increase of \$448,420 above the previous coverage of \$1,545,580 due to provisions for recently added municipal facilities and a re-evaluation of previously owned facilities to coincide with current replacement costs.

"Premium payment for the 1959 calendar year, and which reflects the added coverage, will be \$6,137.47. Subsequent annual premium payments would be approximately \$4,354, if it could be assumed that valuations would remain constant.

"Coverage is distributed between the four qualified local agents previously authorized and currently holding city policies.

"Insurance and other protective requirements are rapidly becoming a major budgetary consideration as the City continues to grow and operations become more complex. It is suggested that consideration be given to a comprehensive over-all review of the various aspects of our protective requirements in the near future. This being a highly specialized field, it will probably be necessary to retain the services of a specialist in this work in order to obtain the maximum benefits from such a study."

There were no objections, and this was ordered filed as a matter of record.

At 8:40 P. M., Mayor Isen declared a recess, with the Council re-convening at 8:50 P. M.

DEFERRED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

1. The City Attorney, as requested at the last meeting, told the Council he had checked with other cities in Los Angeles County, and had checked with the County Health Officer to see what other communities have done to discourage the harbouring of castor bean plants within their borders. He found that two children had died from eating the beans of this plant, one in Fontana and one in Oxnard. The City of Oxnard does have an ordinance prohibiting the plant. Fontana does not. He said he had a letter from Dr. Gilbert, the County Health Officer, who felt that this number of deaths was almost negligible considering the many accidental causes of the deaths of children. This would be almost an impossible ordinance to police, and it is largely a matter of parent education.

Mayor Isen commented that a specimen of the plant was here, and the bean-pods looked so thorny that it would be most difficult to get at the beans.

Councilman Jahn said the City has planted many hundred of oleanders, which are at least as poison as the castor bean.

The City Attorney, in reply to a question from the Mayor, said he had not yet received a copy of the Oxnard ordinance on this.

Councilman Beasley asked what we could do about those plants in the State's rights of way for highways.

The City Attorney did not think we would have any jurisdiction over them.

Councilman Jahn moved the matter be tabled.

Motion seconded by Councilman Bradford.

Mayor Isen asked if anyone present wished to be heard on this, but there was no reply.

The roll call was begun, but a lady in the audience, who said she was Mrs. John Kiesler, protested.

Mrs. Kiesler asked what could be done about these plants which grow in yards, and Councilman Beasley told her the Council would consider it a parental responsibility to educate the children not to eat the beans.

Motion to table carried unanimously by roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM LICENSE DEPARTMENT:

The License Inspector, Mr. Gale Whitacre, submitted the following applications for free licenses, and in each case recommended the request be granted:

1. Salvation Army, for their thrift shop at 1610 Cabrillo and a salvage pick-up truck;
2. Gospel Army, 8916 So. Main St., Los Angeles, to solicit for salvage in the City;
3. Goodwill Industries of Long Beach and the Harbor Area, for trucks to pick up materials;
4. Deseret Industries, 2720 E. 11th St., Los Angeles, to solicit merchandise in the City;
5. American Cancer Society, 817 So. Western, Los Angeles, to conduct their annual Fund Crusade in Torrance in April, 1959;
6. Crippled Children's Society of Los Angeles County, Inc., to place coin container during Easter Seal Campaign from Feb. 27, 1959, to March 27, 1959;
7. Los Angeles Council of the Girl Scouts, asking to conduct their cookie sale from Feb. 12 through 22nd, 1959.

Mayor Isen asked that the Torrance YMCA be given a similar permit to raise funds from Feb. 12 to March 17, 1959, with advance solicitations coming in now.

Councilman Draile moved to concur with the recommendations on

Items 1-7 as made by the License Inspector, and to include the request of the YMCA in this approval.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM BUILDING DEPARTMENT:

1. With a letter dated January 7, 1959, Vel's Ford Sales Co., (Velko Miletich, Pres.,) made application for a sign, saying the plans for it were suggested by the architect to enhance the appearance of the building.

Lee Schlens, Bldg. Supt., said the sign had been changed since the letter was written. It would be over-sized for a sign in that area. They want to put a sign 80' long and 4' high where the parapet on the building would normally be.

This was discussed at some length, with the Councilmen asking the Bldg. Supt. the size and type of sign.

Councilman Jahn moved to allow the request, saying he wanted it understood as a part of his motion that this is a roof sign and not a free standing sign.

Motion seconded by Councilman Beasley, and carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Drale, Jahn, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Bradford. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Isen said he had approved this because he thought it would be an integral part of the building, but Councilman Bradford disagreed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

1. In a letter dated January 7, 1959, the Director of Public Works, John V. Russell, advised the Council that on January 7, 1959, informal bids for furnishing and installation of material storage bins were opened in the Council Chambers. Mr. Russell submitted a bid summary and a copy of the specifications for information of the Council. He recommended that the contract be awarded to the low bidder, Hickory Construction Co., 1308 Hickory Ave., Torrance, whose bid was \$1272.00.

Councilman Jahn moved to concur with the recommendation of the Director of Public Works.

Motion seconded by Councilman Beasley, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

1. A January 6, 1959, letter from Harry B. Van Bellehem, Recreation Director, contained his survey of the Old City Hall with a view to using it as the Torrance Community Recreation Center and Recreation Department Headquarters. He recommended this use for the building.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with this request.

Motion seconded by Councilman Beasley.

Councilman Bradford moved to table this for two weeks.

Motion seconded by Councilman Blount, and carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Bradford, Drale, Jahn, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Isen suggested that the Council set up a Committee to study this with Mr. Van Bellehem in the meantime.

Councilman Drale suggested this go to the Council's Building Committee.

Councilman Bradford said he would like to be at any such meeting held, and Councilman Benstead said he would, also.

Mayor Isen said the Council as a whole would study this with Mr. Van Bellehem, and that the meeting should be set up in time to

get this back to satisfy the 2-week period of the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE WATER DEPARTMENT:

1. With a letter dated January 8, 1959, A. E. McVicar, Supt. of the Water Dept., recommended the installation of a hydrant at 235th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. as recommended by the Fire Dept., with this to be installed at the expense of the Water District. The cost (about \$450) he recommended be included in the financing of the entire area because of the benefits which will accrue to all within the immediate vicinity.

Councilman Jahn pointed out that it was not the Robert B. Jahn Construction Co. which Mr. McVicar mentioned in this letter.

Mr. McVicar was not present to answer questions on this.

Councilman Blount moved to table this until Mr. McVicar can be present, saying that when he has anything before the Council he should be here, and this has been requested many times.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered.

Mayor Isen directed that this be on the Agenda of the next meeting of the Council and that Mr. McVicar be present at that time.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

1. With a memo dated January 8, 1959, the City Engineer submitted to the City Manager a review of the current status of the extension of Felbar Ave. to 186th St.

Councilman Beasley had gone out to see this, and said there is a celery crop there now; he recommended this be held over for about 90 days so the crop would be harvested.

Mayor Isen moved to concur with this memo with the stipulation that the celery crop be harvested before any work is done on the land.

Motion seconded by Councilman Beasley, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. With a letter of January 7, 1959, R. W. Bishop, Acting City Engineer, submitted an agreement between the City and the Los Angeles County Sanitation District, wherein the District agreed to take over the operation and maintenance of certain sewer lines in the City of Torrance from 150' southerly of Paseo de las Tortugas, near the Palos Verdes Estates boundary, to the existing Lomita Trunk Sewer at Pacific Coast Highway east of Janet Lane.

Mr. Bishop told the Council that he had been informed by the Sanitation District today that the sewer between the end of the sewer covered by the agreement and the Palos Verdes boundary would be completely taken up and a sewer built by the District. If this is adopted, the net result will be that they will have a sewer all the way to the Palos Verdes boundary, and therefore, he recommended adoption of this agreement.

Councilman Benstead asked if they would overload our sewer, and Mr. Bishop said they guarantee that they will not. They will use only our excess capacity.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation made by Mr. Bishop, and the motion was seconded by Councilman Beasley.

Councilman Blount asked if there is any possibility that they would overload our sewer, and Mr. Bishop repeated that they would not.

Councilman Blount asks who measures this, and Mr. Bishop said this is done by engineering methods by the District and ourselves.

Councilman Drale said they oversee and inspect all major trunk lines in the City now, but Mr. Bishop said only the ones which they own are so served.

Councilman Blount felt we were giving them the use of this sewer free, and he wanted it understood that there was no guarantee that they would not overload it.

Mr. Bishop said we would only be giving them our excess capacity.

Councilman Jahn felt if we give them this, we should ask them to take care of the water which runs over various parts of our City from there.

Councilman Beasley asked how many houses could tie into the sewer, and whether there would be a limit.

Mr. Bishop thought the number would be limited.

Mayor Isen asked how much they would save by this, and Mr. Bishop said it would be quite a large amount.

Councilman Benstead said he did not believe in giving a free ride to any City.

In reply to a question, the City Attorney said he did not think he had seen this Agreement.

Councilman Blount said it has long been the policy of this Council that each agreement which comes here should go through the Attorney's office.

Councilman Drale withdrew his motion, and moved a substitute motion that this be referred to the City Attorney for recommendation.

Councilman Beasley seconded this.

Councilman Drale felt this should be approved by, and bear the signatures of, the City Manager, Public Works Director, City Engineer, and the City Attorney.

There were no objections and it was so ordered.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

1., CASE NO. 499, and 2., TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. 24756, were considered for withdrawal from the Agenda at the request of the petitioner.

Councilman Drale felt Atkinson Street should continue on through this tract, and he recommended that it do so.

There were no objections, and these two items were ordered withdrawn.

3. With a letter dated January 8, 1959, Planning Director Powell submitted to the Council the Planning Commission's recommendation for approval of the request of:

Willard Haslam & Elmer Bowen, for the Central Evangelical United Brethren Church, at Arlington and Marcellina, for a waiver of the set-back requirements.

A letter from Mr. Hartley Carr, the neighbor, approving this use, was submitted to the Council.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with this recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Motion seconded by Councilman Beasley and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. With a memo dated January 8, 1959, Planning Director Powell submitted a letter from the Pioneer Theatres, Inc., 2500 Redondo Beach Blvd., signed by Dale Gasteiger, President. Mr. Gasteiger asked to be allowed to keep a trailer parked on his theatre property as a shelter and sleeping place for the caretaker and night watchman for the theatre. He agreed to maintain this in such a way that it could not be objectionable, and offered full cooperation.

Councilman Blount moved this request be granted.

Motion seconded by Councilman Beasley, and as there were no objections it was so ordered.

5. In a letter dated January 7, 1959, Planning Director Powell and Bldg. Supt. Lee Schlens submitted to the Council the Staff recommendation that no sidewalks be required on the interior streets of the Howard Tract recently annexed to the City, but that sidewalks, curbs and gutters be constructed along the east Crenshaw frontage, in accordance with our Commercial Improvement Ordinance. The letter reported further that this had gone before the Planning Commission, who took no exception to this recommendation.

Councilman Jahn concurred with this recommendation but emphasized that the improvements on Crenshaw must be provided.

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT:

1. A January 8, 1959, letter from the Chief of Police contained the Traffic Commission recommendation that the Council approve the expenditure of building a sidewalk across the 30' Edison right-of-way along Prairie Avenue on the west side of the street so the children going to and from the Perry school will not have to walk in the street or in wet weather to walk in the mud at the side of the street when traffic is heavy.

Councilman Jahn told the Council the Traffic Commission felt this should come here, even though they did not know where the funds would come from.

Councilman Drale moved to refer this to the City Manager.

Motion seconded by Councilman Bradford, no objection, so ordered.

2. With a January 2, 1959, letter, the Chief of Police reported that in a move to modernize their filing system, they had investigated many types of files, and had called for bids. The following recommendations were made on the various items:

I. Bids were received from Remington Rand, Simplafind, and Diebold; neither Remington Rand nor Simplafind were Underwriter approved, therefore it was the recommendation that the City purchase a Diebold Super Elevator File, purchase price \$4755.65 (budget item).

II. Bids were received from Tab Products, Remington Rand, and Parrish Stationers. It was recommended that Item II, 25,000 letter size folders, be purchased from Parrish Stationers at a cost of \$1456 (budget item).

III. Bids were received from Remington Rand, Tab Products, and Diebold. Remington Rand and Tab Products open shelf files must be purchased in units of 6 or more, whereas Diebold open shelf files can be purchased in single units which can be built up as needed. It was recommended that the City purchase the necessary open shelf file units from Diebold for the purchase price of \$982.22 (budget item).

Councilman Beasley moved to concur with the recommendations included in this letter.

Motion seconded by Councilman Bradford, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Beasley asked the City Manager why there was no notation or recommendation from him on this, saying there usually is such a memo.

The City Manager explained that this was a budget item.

At this time Mr. Richard Loudon, of Wheeldex-Simpla Los Angeles Co., Inc., 910 So. Olive St., Los Angeles, asked if the bids could be questioned.

It was explained to him that the items he sold had not met the specifications.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY:

1. A January 7, 1959, letter from James M. Hall, of the firm of MacFaden & Hall, 115 So. Pacific Avenue, Redondo Beach, submitted to the Council his opinion that the City is not liable for damages to date resulting from earth slippage in the area of Victoria Knolls (Portobello Drive).

Mrs. Agatha Berwanger, 2743 Portobello, asked what would be done about this.

Mayor Isen suggested that she and the other persons interested read this opinion and that of S. E. Remelmeyer, the City Attorney as guides to their thinking.

In reply to a question, Mrs. Berwanger said she had not seen these.

Councilman Jahn said the last time this was here, he had asked that anything coming on the Agenda about this be held until the people in the affected area had been notified, and that they be given a chance to read such items as this.

Councilman Benstead moved to table this for two weeks to give those people a chance to read this.

Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor Isen suggested to Mrs. Berwanger that she contact the City Attorney and secure a copy of his opinion and of this opinion from Mr. Hall.

A copy of Mr. Hall's opinion was handed to Mrs. Berwanger.

Councilman Beasley said this has been under consideration for some time, and he felt the City should see what can be done to help these people. He also believed that the contractor should be brought in to discuss this with the Council.

Councilman Bradford agreed, and said that Steve Barnes, a well-known engineer has looked at the area and recommended that the ice plant be removed from the banks as he thinks it contributes to slippage.

Mayor Isen felt all the matters should be considered at one time, and the Council agreed it would be wise to have everything on this here in two weeks when this comes back, and it was so ordered.

After further brief discussion, it was agreed to consider this at 7:00 P. M. Tuesday, January 27, 1959, in this Chamber, and the secretary was directed to be present to take the minutes of the meeting on this.

At 9:35 P. M., Mayor Isen declared a recess, with the Council re-convening at 9:45 P. M.

2. With a cover letter dated January 8, 1959, the City Attorney submitted a Park Fee Bond for Council acceptance from Don Wilson, subdivider, to secure the park fee on Tract No. 22228.

Mayor Isen suggested that a decision must be made on this and Mr. Wilson notified before the end of the month.

Councilman Jahn said Mr. Wilson was to come in and say how much land he could give the City.

There were no objections, and Mayor Isen directed the City Attorney to ask Mr. Wilson to come in next week about this, and to put this on the agenda at that time.

RE: PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM:

Mayor Isen referred to the public address system in the Council Chamber, and said something must be done to improve it. He said that the people in the audience simply cannot hear what goes on.

Councilman Jahn agreed, saying he had always felt we should have a better system.

In reply to a question, the City Manager said we had not had anyone in except the company who had installed this system.

Councilman Bradford said he had gone to other meetings in larger rooms where there are large crowds and you could hear everything. He thought the situation would be improved if the Councilmen addressed the speakers in front of them.

Mayor Isen said this was not always practical.

After further discussion along these lines, the City Manager suggested that another type of microphone might help.

Mayor Isen directed the City Manager to begin testing to see if this was right.

The City Manager said there would be another type of microphone here for testing next week.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. With a letter dated January 7, 1959, the City Attorney submitted two agreements, one with Shell Oil Co. and the other with Vegas Airways, Inc., under which the City will receive a royalty for the sales of gasoline and oil made on the airport.

In reply to a question, the City Attorney said they had agreed to this.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3613

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND SHELL OIL COMPANY FOR THE NON-EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO SELL GASOLINE AND OTHER PETROLEUM PRODUCTS ON THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST SAME.

Councilman Blount moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3613.

Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn and carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Blount, Bradford, Jahn, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3614

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND VEGAS AIRWAYS, INC., FOR THE NON-EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO DISPENSE GASOLINE AND OTHER PETROLEUM PRODUCTS ON THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.

Councilman Blount moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3614.

Motion seconded by Councilman Jahn and carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Beasley, Benstead, Blount, Bradford, Jahn, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

2. City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3615

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR LIBRARY SERVICES.

The City Manager said we are trying to get a 2-year agreement, and this must go to the Board of Supervisors, and it has been recommended by the County's people.

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3615.

Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

3. City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3616

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY AND ERWIN EARL WILSON AND DARLENE JOAN WILSON EXTENDING THE TERM OF THEIR OPTION TO LEASE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY ON THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.

Councilman Jahn moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3616.
Motion seconded by Councilman Blount and it carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3617

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND S. E. PIPE LINE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF CONCRETE CYLINDER PIPE IN LOMITA BOULEVARD.

Councilman Blount asked where this pipe will be, and the City Manager replied north of the paving.

Councilman Blount asked if the work on Lomita Blvd. is complete, and the City Manager said it is not, but we have marked it down the center to help drivers during the intense fogs of this time of year.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 3617.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

5. City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 3618

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE COMMENDING TORRANCE POLICE OFFICERS THOMAS WOODRIDGE AND GERALD SNYDER FOR ACTS OF BRAVERY ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY WHICH PREVENTED THE LOSS OF TWO OR MORE LIVES BY FIRE AND EXPLOSION.

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Resolution No. 3618.

Motion seconded by Mayor Isen and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCES:

1. With a cover letter dated January 8, 1959, the City Attorney submitted an ordinance amending Section 8.26 of the Code to prohibit the solicitation or receipt of political contributions from City employees and persons on the eligible lists.

Councilman Bradford asked to hold this for study.

Mayor Isen said this was in line with a suggestion he had made some weeks ago.

Councilman Benstead asked to study this.

There were no objections, and this was held for study, with the Mayor directing that it be on the agenda for next week's meeting of the Council.

January 13, 1959
Council Minutes

PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor Isen proclaimed the week of February 7 to 13 as Boy Scout Week, and urged our citizens to support the service of this group and its leaders.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. The City Manager read in full a letter submitted by Elvin F. Schoonover, 3546 Senefeld Drive, dated August 19, 1958. This letter protested the condition of the drainage ditch south of the Madison St. culvert, and reported that city crews working on the ditch north of Madison had damaged his landscaping and property. The letter also reported that the ditch north of Newton needs cleaning.

Mr. Schoonover came forward and pointed out the date of this letter, saying he had hoped this would all be corrected before the rainy season had set in but it had not. He said that the water in his yard from this condition had been six inches deep during the last rain, and slime from the ditch had come into the yard.

Director of Public Works Russell asked for a week in which to prepare a report on this, saying all this work is scheduled work.

Mayor Isen directed Mr. Russell to send a copy of the report to Mr. Schoonover.

Councilman Beasley agreed with Mr. Schoonover that this should all have been cleaned out before the rains. He said there is much debris in the ditch which should not be there.

Mayor Isen did not think the City's crews should have done the damage named by Mr. Schoonover, and directed the report to be here for the next meeting, with a copy to Mr. Schoonover.

Councilman Benstead asked for a report on the damage allegedly done, as well.

Mayor Isen asked Mr. Schoonover to come back next week if he is not satisfied with the report.

2. City Manager Stevens said he had, as requested by the Council, contacted the Flood Control District and asked for their schedule for work on the Dominguez Channel inside the City. They had told him the channel from Gramercy to Redondo Beach Boulevard contract will be ordered next spring. He has a letter to that effect. They have a bridge at Arlington and one at Crenshaw to put in. This is a very big project.

The City Manager said the condition near the market which was discussed was also investigated, and that there is a line on top of the ground there. About all we can do about it is to surface it and make it look better for the present until they have set the grade.

3. The City Manager reported he had received a letter from C. N. Cake who is very interested in the old 'Hody' lease; he would like to meet with the Council and Airport Commission jointly and negotiate, with a view to beginning his building at once.

Councilman Jahn thought this should have come through the regular channels.

Mayor Isen felt if this was a good offer we should not stand on technicalities.

Councilman Beasley said Mr. Cake has much land to develop, but so far as he knew, Mr. Cake has done nothing except allow a filling station on his land.

Councilman Drale agreed, and thought this should come through the Airport Commission.

Councilman Jahn said if the procedure is changed, it would have to be with concurrence of the Council; he did not think a motion was necessary.

Councilman Drale said he would move that this come through the regular channel if such a motion was needed.

There were no objections, and this was ordered to regular channels.

4. The City Attorney reported in regard to an agreement made in 1951 with the Wagner Realty Co., concerning a sub-division in North Torrance, about the water service. Under the agreement, if our water sales reached a certain point dollar-wise, we were to refund them about \$7500. They have filed suit against us for this money, and he has answered. After some negotiation, they have agreed to settle for about \$3500.

The City Attorney said he thought our chances of winning a case on this were less than 50%, and that due to the records on this, it would be a most difficult case.

Mayor Isen asked if any settlement would come from Water Dept. funds, and the City Attorney said it would.

Councilman Drale asked if this had transpired before our new ordinance, and the City Attorney said it had.

After further discussion, Councilman Blount moved that the City Attorney present a written report on this written in such a way that laymen can understand it and hand it to the Council next week with his recommendation.

Motion seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, so ordered.

5. Councilman Beasley reported that on January 30, our Planning Director, Mr. George C. Powell, is to appear on a panel for the American Society of Public Administrators, Southern California Regional Conference, about the role of the Municipality in Regional Planning affairs.

6. Councilman Beasley asked that the Staff go into the matter of extension of our sewer lines. He believed that the building which will go on during the next few years will require some people to put in extremely long sewers; he would like for us to require that anyone who ties into such a sewer should repay a proportionate share of the cost.

Mr. Bishop thought we had such a law.

This was discussed briefly, and as there were no objections the matter was referred to the staff for investigation and a report.

6. Councilman Benstead asked Mr. Russell if water had been pumped into the street during the last rain, in the Hollywood-Riviera section.

Mr. Russell said we might have at one time, but he was not sure.

Councilman Benstead said he had been told that water went into the city of Redondo Beach and flooded a motel.

The City Manager demurred, saying that we had pumped water from the El Retiro sump, but it is shunted across the street and it goes into a drain and out into the ocean.

7. Councilman Bradford said he had spent about three hours looking at the old City Hall after receiving this request for it from the Recreation Department. While there, he had seen some ladies glueing pieces of glass on plates. He was also in the back of the Chamber of Commerce at the Auditorium, and there some ladies were making hats. He believed these activities to be carried on under the auspices of our Recreation Dept., and pointed out that the schools have the same classes in both day and evening school, open to adults. He wondered why the City has been duplicating those classes, saying if the schools offer these classes, he did not think we should also offer them. He felt that department was getting very big.

Mayor Isen suggested this be considered with the use of the building when the meeting on that is held.

8. Councilman Jahn asked the City Manager for a comprehensive report on the Hollywood-Riviera storm drain, and who had constructed it and whether it was constructed and engineered properly and if so, why it is 6" above the street in places, whether we had engineered it, etc. He said he wanted the names of the persons responsible for the error if an error had been made in it.

9. Councilman Jahn said that next week's agenda would have some items from the Traffic Commission, and among them would be a stop sign or more than one on Carson. This has been refused in the past. He outlined the traffic difficulties on Carson, and asked those persons interested to check into this.

Mayor Isen directed the City Manager to see that this was on next week's agenda.

10. Mayor Isen noted that Mr. Ross Sciarrotta was present, having been recently re-appointed to the Civil Service Board and has been re-elected as Chairman of that Board. The Mayor extended the felicitations of the Council to him, and said they believe the reason he was re-elected as Chairman was that his fine work there has been recognized.

11. Mayor Isen extended the condolences of the Council to Mr. Casper Clemmer, whose wife passed away last Sunday.

12. Councilman Drale extended similar regrets to Mr. Fred Montgomery, whose wife passed away last evening.

13. Councilman Benstead thought flowers should go to City employees who suffered deaths in their immediate families, or to the family in case of the death of a City employee.


Mayor Isen thought the City Manager should be allowed to use his discretion in this, and asked the City Manager to write appropriate letters where indicated.

14. Mrs. Jean Gerald of the Citizens' Steering Committee told the Council that on November 25, the Dairy Committee had turned in a report and they asked that Mr. Powell's report be sent to the dairies, and they asked that a letter from the Council accompany it asking the dairies to comply.

There were no objections, and it was referred to Mr. Powell.

15. Councilman Benstead moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Bradford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 P. M.


A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk of the City of
Torrance, California

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance